Two transgender persons shot dead in Lakki Marwat

By Our Correspondent

LAKKI MARWAT: Unidentified gunmen killed two transgender persons in the Serai Naurang town of Lakki Marwat district on Sunday night.

Police said that Zakir Khan, 34, a resident of Kakki Jan Naurang and Shahab alias Dollar, a resident of Mardan, were living in a rented room near the fruit and vegetable market.

They said both of them along with another companion, Irshad alias Khattaki, a resident of Mumbatti Kallay Karak, had hired the room to arrange music concerts there.

The police said armed suspects shot dead both of them inside the room and escaped.

Rafiullah, 48, a brother of deceased Zakir, told police that he was at home when someone informed him that his brother along with a companion had been murdered inside their room in the Naurang area.

He said he immediately reached the Tehsil Headquarters Hospital where he found the bodies lying in the emergency ward. He told police that his family had no enmity with anyone.

Police said they had registered a case against unknown killers under relevant sections of law and began an investigation.

Separately, two people, including a teenager, were killed over a petty dispute in the Abbasa Khattak area of Lakki Marwat.

The double murder occurred in the trans-river belt within the limits of Dadiwala police station.

Mohammad Aqeel, 20, who was injured in the attack, told police that he along with Mohammad Sajjad, 23, and Naimatullah, 18, left their Barmikhel Wazir Abbas village on a motorcycle to go to Kooz Kallay Abbasa Wazir.

"When we reached near a mosque on a dirt track, Kamal, Parvaiz, Raqeebullah, Shahidullah and Michani suddenly appeared and opened fire with their weapons, killing Sajjad and Naimatullah instantly.

Police said the bodies were handed over to relatives after conducting postmortem at the THQ Hospital in Serai Naurang town.

They initiated an investigation after registering a case against the suspected killers under relevant sections of law.

Former nazim shot dead in Peshawar

PESHAWAR: A former nazim was killed and his friend sustained injuries when unidentified persons opened fire at them in the jurisdiction of Bhana Mari police station here on Monday, the police said.

A statement issued by the city police said Awal Khan died while his friend, Kiramt was wounded in the attack, which took place near the civil quarters.

The body and the injured were shifted to a hospital.

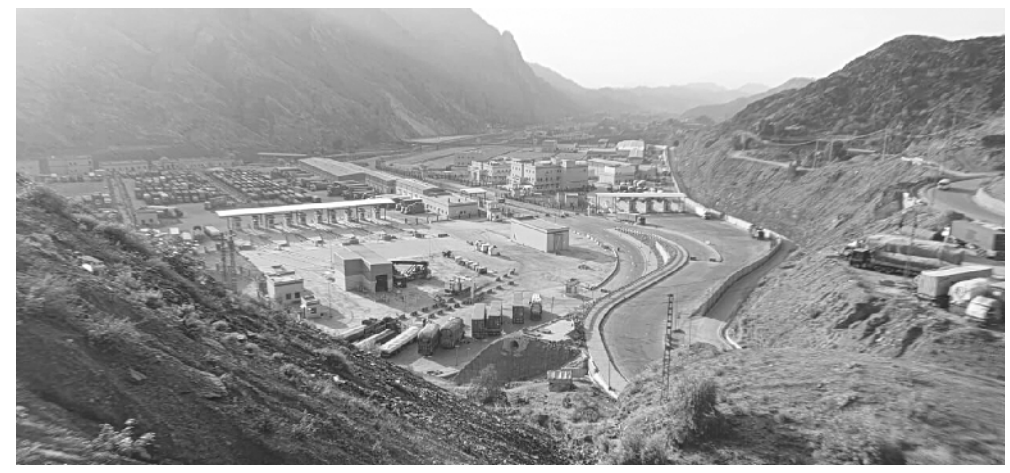
Police officials reached the spot and an investigation was launched.

The Bhana Mari police said they were waiting for relatives of the deceased person to file a report. — Bureau Report

Month-long Torkham border closure inflicts $4.5 billion trade losses

Exporter says markets in Kabul and Jalalabad flooded with Iranian, Turkish and Central Asian products; customs agent calls for dialogue to reopen all border points

By Ibrahim Shinwari



THE newly-constructed Torkham customs terminal presents a deserted look. — Dawn

KHYBER: The month-long closure of Torkham border crossing has caused a cumulative loss of over $4.5 billion and another Rs16.5 billion in terms of exports and imports respectively through Pakistan's trade with Afghanistan.

Sources among official and trading circles told *Dawn* that Pakistan had already lost over 65 per cent of the Afghan market to Iran, some Central Asian States, Turkiye and even India due to hostile and aggressive trade policies dictated by security issues since the installation of the Taliban regime in Kabul in August 2021.

They said that while big time Pakistan and Afghan exporters had lifted their capital from the export-import business between the two neighbouring countries due to the repeated border closure and a hostile environment for traders and investors, the month-long closure of all border points had seriously dented the confidence of remaining "bunch" of small traders.

The sources said that while the uncertain situation had also dealt a severe blow to the burgeoning local manufacturing industry in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, the border closure had seriously impacted manufacture of hundreds of daily items in Punjab and Sindh, which were exported to Afghanistan under the head of the miscellaneous items daily prior to the closure of the border.

They said that Afghanistan was currently importing cement, garments, shoes and slippers, a variety of edibles including different vegetables, fresh fruits, fish, chicken and other poultry items, animal feed and confectionery items.

The sources said that the prolonged border closure had negatively impacted the potato and banana exports, while the kinnow export was also in doldrums if immediate steps were not taken to ease border tensions.

Qari Nazeem Gul, an exporter and clearing agent, told *Dawn* that even before the border tensions began, at least markets in Kabul and Jalalabad were flooded with Iranian, Turkish and Central Asian products with Iran grabbing the major share of its exports to Afghanistan.

He said that Afghan traders were more interested and comfortable in doing trade with Iran instead of Pakistan as Iran was offering them more relaxations in acquisition of visas and custom duties.

"We are now hugely disheartened with the current pattern of complicated business with Afghanistan with most of the local traders now developing a hatred for the said trade due to continuous security and political issues between the two neighbouring countries," he said.

Equally concerned was Mujeebullah Shinwari, who heads the Torkham customs clearing agents association.

"We've long been advocating for a trader-friendly policy by the government with special focus on alienating bilateral trade from security and political issues with Afghanistan," he said.

Mr Shinwari said that the volume of Pakistan's trade with Afghanistan had dropped from $2.5 billion in the years from 2012 to 2016 to a mere $800 to 900 million dollars on an annual basis.

"Gone are the times when 1000-1200 shipping containers loaded with multiple export items would cross over to Afghanistan on a daily basis, as we now have 250-300 containers left in the export field on a daily basis," he said.

The customs clearing agents' leader said that the suspension of bilateral trade was also harming revenue generation through tax collection under various heads that was up till now a handsome amount for the national exchequer.

He said that the current volatile and uncertain situation had deeply affected the small-time businessmen, traders and even shopkeepers in local markets as a large number of people affiliated with different trading fields had lost their legitimate earnings.

Mr Shinwari said that the local trading and transport community had never experienced such a long closure of the border with a majority of the vehicle owners who got stranded due to sudden closure of Torkham on October 12 were now contemplating to switch over to other less profitable business venture in order to cover for the month-long financial loses.

He suggested the formation of an all-powerful jirga of leading tribal elders, politicians and traders to hold meaningful dialogue with officials of both the countries to find a mutually agreed formula for reopening of all borders points for trading and thus, saving business communities of both countries from further financial losses.

Meanwhile, Israr Shinwari, head of a local youth organisation, has demanded the immediate reopening of the Torkham border through a powerful jirga mediating between the two countries.

During a meeting in Landi Kotal on Monday, he said that the Pak-Afghan border points should be kept open in all circumstances, with a special focus on promoting trade between the two countries.

Mr Shinwari, however, warned a series of protest demonstrations would be staged if their legitimate demands weren't met.

27th Amendment to serve political ends: ministers

Say PTI will fight constitutional battle against Centre's move

By Ali Hazrat Bacha

PESHAWAR: Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Minister for Local Government Meena Khan Afridi and Special Assistant to the Chief Minister on Information Shafiullah Jan on Monday criticised the draft 27th Constitutional Amendment, describing the federal government's initiative as an attack on the Constitution and an attempt to grant lifelong powers and immunity to an individual.

Addressing a joint news conference at the Peshawar Press Club on Monday, Mr Afridi said that the PTI government led by prime minister Imran Khan was toppled under a conspiracy and that the Constitution and laws of the country were being trampled upon by authorities to serve political ends.

He said that authorities were playing with the Constitution through the 27th Constitutional Amendment the same way as they did with the 26th Amendment, and that even federal ministers were unaware of the details of the amendment.

Minister Afridi alleged that efforts were being made to retain one person in a top position for life.

"Whether that person commits theft, robbery or any other wrongdoing, they will remain untouchable and even be protected," he said, questioning how such immunity could be justified under Islamic principles.

The minister claimed that first, the people's mandate given to PTI was stolen, and currently, attempts were being made to change the Constitution with the help of just 17 parliament seats.

He accused the federal government of conspiring to keep the PTI founder imprisoned.

Special Assistant to the CM Shafiullah Jan denounced the 27th Constitutional Amendment, saying that the last few amendments turned the Constitution into a joke.

He alleged that lawmakers were abducted overnight to ensure the passage of previous constitutional amendments.

He questioned how those "illegal" rulers could alter the Constitution.

Mr Jan said that the PTI would fight a constitutional and legal battle against what he described as tampering with the country's foundational document.

He said that the amendment had nothing to do with civilian supremacy but was instead a move to empower one department and one person for life.

The aide to the CM criticised the Pakistan Peoples Party for what he insisted selling former prime minister Benazir Bhutto's legacy by endorsing the constitutional amendment.

"PPP current chairman Bilawal Bhutto-Zardari has sold the very Constitution his grandfather gave to the nation through consensus in 1973," he said.

Mr Jan alleged that the amendment's real purpose was to keep Imran behind bars and that even the federal government's ally, Aimal Wali Khan of the ANP, was "betrayed" in the process.

He also announced that a peace jirga would be held at the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Assembly on Nov 12, with representatives of all major political parties being in attendance.

The special assistant said that Chief Minister Sohail Afridi personally contacted political leaders and invited them to participate in the moot, hoping that the jirga would yield positive results for the restoration of law and order in the province.

He praised the chief minister for mingling with the people without protocol or security checks and said the move reflected his popularity and connection with the people.

Mr Jan said that while courts issued verdicts, the real question was who would ensure their implementation.

Youth injured in S. Waziristan landmine blast

By Our Correspondent

SOUTH WAZIRISTAN: A young man was seriously injured in a landmine explosion in the Momi Karam Kuch area of Kanigaram tehsil of Upper South Waziristan on Monday.

Sources said the injured man, identified as Safeerullah, 18, was returning home after collecting firewood when he stepped on a landmine, triggering a powerful blast. The explosion threw him several feet away, leaving him critically wounded.

Local residents rushed to the scene and shifted the injured to a basic health unit in Salahuddin Kot, where he was given first aid before being referred to District Headquarters Hospital, Dera Ismail Khan, for further treatment.

Additional deputy commissioner Fazal Wadood confirmed the incident, stating that the youth was bringing firewood from a nearby forest when he accidentally stepped on the explosive device.

He added that police cordoned off the area, collected evidence, and launched an investigation into the incident.

According to reports, dozens of innocent children, men, women, and youth have so far been killed or maimed in landmine explosions across Upper South Waziristan and adjoining areas, while many cows, goats, and other livestock have also perished.

Local residents have urged the government to take immediate steps for the complete clearance of landmines to prevent further loss of lives.

QUAID-E-AWAM UNIVERSITY
OF ENGINEERING, SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY, NAWABSHAH
SAKRAND ROAD, NAWABSHAH, 67450

No: QUEST/NH/PROC/530 — Dated: 10.11.2025

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

Quaid-e-Awam University of Engineering, Science & Technology (QUEST) Nawabshah, invited e-bid through E-Pak Acquisition and disposable system (E-PADS). The details of tenders are as under:

Name of Work	Tender Fee	Date of issuance	Submission date and time	Opening date and time
Services for 15th Academic Convocation (Venue Setup & Catering)	5000/-	13-11-2025	**28-11-2025** up to 10 10:00 am	**28-11-2025** at 10:30 am

Procurement Procedure:	Single Stage One Envelope
Award Criteria	Most advantageous bid (least cost basis)
Contact details:	Procurement Manager, at PGS Building, Quaid-e-Awam University (QUEST), Nawabshah S.B.A Sindh. Phone # 0244-930389, email address: pm@quest.edu.pk
Bids Submission:	(Date & time): **28-11-2025** up to 10:00 AM, the bids submit on **E-PADS.** The hard copy of the technical and financial bid must reach the procuring agency before the deadline for submission of **E-PADS**, QUEST. Manual bids shall not be received. The Bids received after the due date and time will not be accepted.
Bid Security:	**5%** of bid amount at the time of bid submission in the shape of Pay Order only in the name of Director Finance, QUEST Nawabshah.
Bid Validity Period:	90 days
Eligibility:	1. All the interested Contractors / Firms having valid registration with Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) for Income Tax, and Registration with GST, SRB. 2. Minimum 3 years of experience of similar nature in government/private organizations Universities. 3. Last 3 years bank statements minimum 3 million transaction (per year) for services. 4. The bidder has attached Income Tax Returns Forms for last three financial years. 5. Latest Income Tax Certificate (NTN) and active taxpayer status. 6. Detailed portfolio of company profile. 7. Required Bid security and tender fee. 8. Other mandatory criteria mentioned in the bidding document.
Terms and conditions:	1. The contract documents and other terms & Conditions can be seen and blank tenders be obtained from the office of the undersigned on any working day and, also downloaded from QUEST (www.quest.edu.pk) and SPPRA (E-PADS). websites from the day of issuance mentioned in this NIT. The bids will be opened on the date and time as mentioned above in the presence of bidders or their authorized representative who wish to attend. 2. The cost of bid should inclusive of all government taxes. 3. The procurement agency reserves the right to accept or reject any or all financial bids as per SPPRA rules. 4. In case of any disturbance or busy schedule of any committee member, the tenders will be opened on next working day. 5. Under following conditions tender will be rejected: 1) Conditional bids / tenders. 2) Bids not accompanied by the bid security of required amount and form. 3) Bid received after specified date and time. 4) Black listed firms. 5) In case the applicant not fulfills SPPRA or aforesaid conditions, the applications for issuance of bidding document will not be entertained.

Note: The details including selection criteria are available in the Bid document.

PROCUREMENT MANAGER
QUEST Nawabshah

PID (H)181/2025

Women literature festival opens at Benazir varsity

PESHAWAR: The third edition of Dosti Peshawar Women Literature Festival was held on Monday at Shaheed Benazir Bhutto Women University Peshawar (SBBWUP).

The festival brought together celebrated poetesses, authors and literature enthusiasts, creating a vibrant platform for inspiration, creativity, and women empowerment through literature and cultural exchange.

The inaugural ceremony of the festival began with a tree plantation, followed by recitation of the Holy Quran and national anthem.

Prof Safia Ahmad, the vice-chancellor of SBBWUP, extended a warm reception to chief guest Prof Ghazala Yasmeen, the vice-chancellor of Women University Swabi.

Prof Safia highlighted the pivotal role of women in literature and stressed need for promoting gender equality in intellectual and creative fields. She expressed pride in SBBWUP for hosting the region's first-ever women literature festival, now evolved into one of the university's flagship events.

Keynote sessions featured Syed Asad Qadri, team lead of humanitarian project at SRSP, who spoke on the role of women in collective empowerment and leadership.

STUDENTS perform a stage play at the inaugural ceremony of Women Literature Festival at SBBWU, Peshawar, on Monday. — APP

A literary talk on the book 'Muskai Okhkay' by Dr Roshan Kaleem engaged the audience. The session was moderated by Dr Sumaira Gul.

The event also included cultural performances by students, adding colours and vibrancy to the festival.

Noman Bashir, the director of TDAP, highlighted the importance of literary gatherings in fostering cultural identity and intellectual growth.

A tribute ceremony was held to honour women from diverse districts of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa who have made significant contribution to their respective fields.

The festival concluded with a shield and souvenir distribution, a group photo session, and a refreshment and networking gathering, offering participants an opportunity to connect and collaborate.

Prof Safia commended the efforts of organisers including Dr Hamida Bibi, Sania Siraj, Tashfeen Zia, Dr Sumaira Gul and Dr Zarmina Baloch for their dedication.

She said that festival's outreach to various chapters across Khyber Pakhtunkhwa reflected the university's ongoing mission to advance women empowerment, literary excellence and cultural dialogue.— APP